

# VOICE

The Star of Kansas



## 2014 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN FULL SWING

Significant construction work will be taking place again in Prairie Village this summer. Traffic will be impacted by two significant projects on our major routes, 75th Street from Mission to State Line Road and Somerset Drive from Belinder to State Line Road. Utility work has already started on 75th Street to relocate the water main for the street construction scheduled for 2015. Somerset Drive will be resurfaced this summer as part of the Johnson County CARS program.

From a residential point of view, 11 street rehabilitations will take place this summer where we will resurface the street, ensure that ADA ramps are installed in the area and, as needed, repair the sidewalk and the curb and gutter.

The parks will see some improvements this year as well. These projects will start construction in late spring 2014. Please refer to the project page at [www.pvkansas.com/2014parksprojects](http://www.pvkansas.com/2014parksprojects) for project drawings.

- McCrum Park – A new shelter will be added. Also a new nature play and sand area will be added including a new playground structure and a trike path. In addition, the overhead power lines will be placed underground.
- Taliaferro Park – A new nature play and sand area will be added between the existing play area and existing shelter.
- Prairie Park – The climbing boulder will be removed and relocated to McCrum Park and a toddler swing will be added.
- Harmon Park/Santa Fe Park – A new 9 hole disc golf course is planned.

In addition, we have a storm water pipe repair project on 73rd Terrace near Windsor beginning in April and a drainage channel repair project just east of Nall between 70th Terrace and 71st Street which we anticipate will start construction in mid summer.

We look forward to these improvements to our community and as always we appreciate your patience during construction season. Please refer to [www.pvkansas.com/projects](http://www.pvkansas.com/projects) for project updates and information.

## FEATURES:

**3** 2nd Annual Pie Contest July 4th



**6** Keep P.V. Beautiful



**7** What's Bugging My Roses?



# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

Upon the completion of the recent City Council elections, I want to take the opportunity to personally thank all the council members for their service to the community. You might not be aware, but Prairie Village is unusual in that city council members do not receive any payment for their service. This year

we have three council members who will be leaving the council after many years of service: Dale Warman, Ward 1, was first appointed to the council in June 2009; Charles Clark, Ward 5, has served on the council since his election in April 2006, serving eight years; and David Belz, Ward 6, was first appointed in January 2004 and was re-elected two times serving on the city council for over ten years. If you have a chance, please take the opportunity to thank them for their service to our community.

I also want to welcome recently elected and re-elected council members: Jori Nelson (Ward 1), Steve Noll (Ward 2), Eric Mikkelson (Ward 3), Laura Wassmer (Ward 4), Dan Runion (Ward 5), and Terrence Gallagher (Ward 6). In the coming months, the council will begin working on a number of items including the 2015 budget and the five year plan for infrastructure improvements (streets, sidewalks, etc.). You are invited to provide feedback on key budget issues through our online budget simulator at [www.pvkansas.com/budgetsimulator](http://www.pvkansas.com/budgetsimulator).

We also have a number of events planned for this spring and summer including the Recycling Extravaganza (May 3), the Prairie Village Art Show (May 30 – June 1), and VillageFest (July 4). Check out the PV Happenings section of the newsletter for more information. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Ron Shaffer, Mayor

# ELECTED OFFICIALS

## MAYOR

Ron Shaffer . . . . . 831-0907  
[mayor@pvkansas.com](mailto:mayor@pvkansas.com)

## WARD I

Ashley Weaver . . . . . 403-9154  
[aweaver@pvkansas.com](mailto:aweaver@pvkansas.com)

Jori Nelson . . . . . 522-7497  
[jnelson@pvkansas.com](mailto:jnelson@pvkansas.com)

## WARD II

Steve Noll . . . . . 262-1560  
[snoll@pvkansas.com](mailto:snoll@pvkansas.com)

Ruth Hopkins . . . . . 384-0165  
[rhopkins@pvkansas.com](mailto:rhopkins@pvkansas.com)

## WARD III

Eric Mikkelson . . . . . 816-896-3787  
[emikkelson@pvkansas.com](mailto:emikkelson@pvkansas.com)

Andrew Wang . . . . . 671-8404  
[awang@pvkansas.com](mailto:awang@pvkansas.com)

## WARD IV

Laura Wassmer . . . . . 648-8379  
[lwassmer@pvkansas.com](mailto:lwassmer@pvkansas.com)

Brooke Morehead . . . . . 642-4793  
[bmorehead@pvkansas.com](mailto:bmorehead@pvkansas.com)

## WARD V

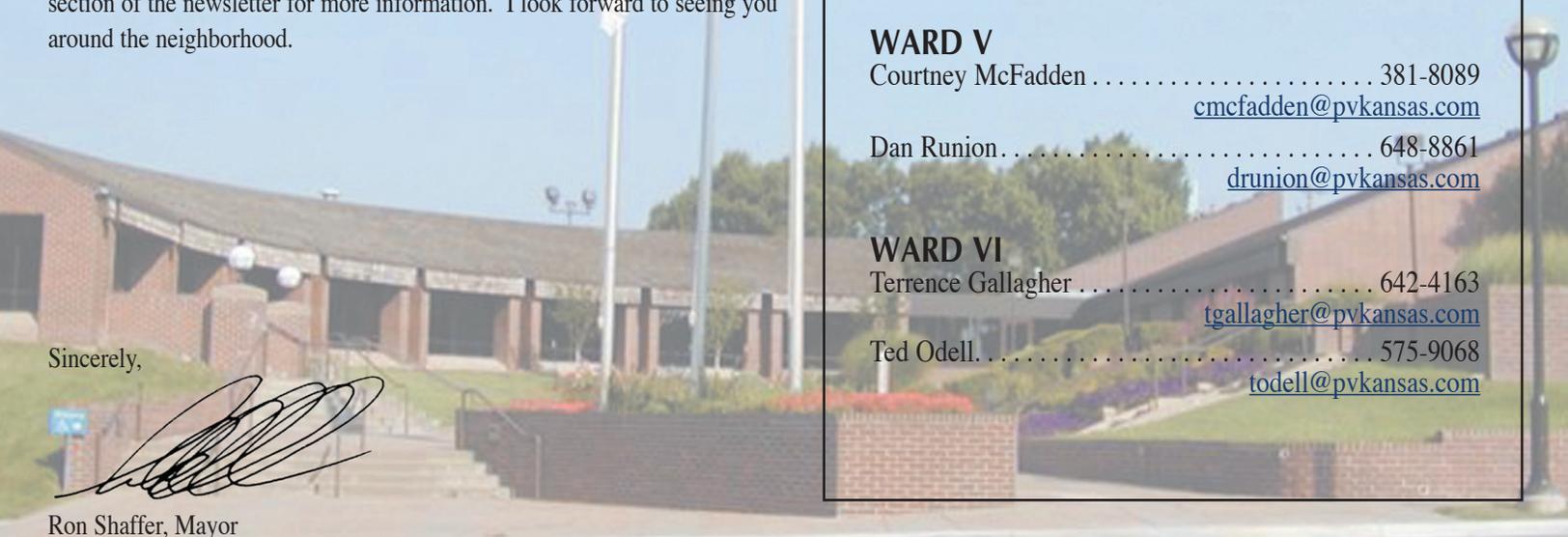
Courtney McFadden . . . . . 381-8089  
[cmcfadden@pvkansas.com](mailto:cmcfadden@pvkansas.com)

Dan Runion . . . . . 648-8861  
[drunion@pvkansas.com](mailto:drunion@pvkansas.com)

## WARD VI

Terrence Gallagher . . . . . 642-4163  
[tgallagher@pvkansas.com](mailto:tgallagher@pvkansas.com)

Ted Odell . . . . . 575-9068  
[todell@pvkansas.com](mailto:todell@pvkansas.com)



<b>IN THIS ISSUE:</b>	
Project Update . . . . .	1
Mayor's Message . . . . .	2
Committee Spotlight . . . . .	3
PV Happenings . . . . .	4
Public Safety . . . . .	5
Community Development . . . . .	6
Community Corner . . . . .	7
Village Green . . . . .	8

# COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

## Join us for the 5th Annual Prairie Village Jazz Festival

Mark your calendars now for the 5th Annual Prairie Village Jazz Festival on Saturday, September 6 at Harmon Park. Proceeds from the event will benefit Heartland Habitat for Humanity's A Brush with Kindness Program in Prairie Village. A Brush with Kindness helps low-income homeowners in Prairie Village impacted by age, disability and family circumstances, who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes. For more information visit [www.prairievillagejazz.org](http://www.prairievillagejazz.org) or contact Joyce Hagen Mundy at 913-385-4616 or [jhmundy@pvkansas.com](mailto:jhmundy@pvkansas.com).

## Celebrate the Fourth of July at Villagefest

Mark your calendars for the 18th Annual VillageFest Celebration on July 4. You won't want to miss this free, family friendly event. Activities run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a pancake breakfast hosted by Chris Cakes beginning at 7:30 a.m. All events take place on the Municipal Campus at 7700 Mission Rd.

As part of this year's festivities we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Pie Baking Contest. The first Pie Baking Contest was such a huge success that we're doing it again. Bring your best made-from-scratch pie and enter to win. Choose from three categories: fruit, nut, and other. We'll even accept dairy pies. Judging will take place at the Harmon Park pavilion on July 4. Registration is free and must be completed by June 27. To find out more or register, visit [www.pvkansas.com/piebakingcontest](http://www.pvkansas.com/piebakingcontest).

Another part of this year's festivities is the 3rd Annual Craft Fair. The craft fair vendor fee is \$25 and the deadline to apply is June 15. Contact Barb Shaw at [shawb333@hotmail.com](mailto:shawb333@hotmail.com) for more information or visit [www.prairievillagefest.com](http://www.prairievillagefest.com) to download an application.

We're also looking for nominations for the Community Spirit Awards. Each year the VillageFest Committee recognizes residents and businesses that exemplify a caring spirit in our community. We encourage nominations of citizens who are well-known for community service, but also seek those less known neighborhood heroes who have selflessly helped their neighbors in need of extra care or in an emergency and those who help out under other circumstances like snow removal, grass cutting or other burdens of daily living for neighbors unable to do their own due to age or infirmity. Visit [www.prairievillagefest.com](http://www.prairievillagefest.com) to download an application and nominate an individual or business. Nominations are due May 22.

We need volunteers between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on July 4. Contact Tracy Landing at [tlanding@hotmail.com](mailto:tlanding@hotmail.com) if interested. Look for more details in the next newsletter, [www.prairievillagefest.com](http://www.prairievillagefest.com), or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/prairievillagefest](http://www.facebook.com/prairievillagefest).

## Prairie Village Arts Council Now Accepting Applications to Exhibit

The Prairie Village Arts Council is currently accepting applications for consideration to exhibit in the R.G. Endres Gallery for the first part of 2015. Interested applicants must submit their applications and necessary documentation no later than May 30, 2014. The Prairie Village Arts Council will review submissions and make selections at their June 18, 2014 meeting. For more information and to download an application, visit [www.pvkansas.com/artgallery](http://www.pvkansas.com/artgallery).

We are expanding the monthly art receptions to include musical performing arts! The Arts Council is conducting a pilot program to allow musical performing arts that would complement the monthly art reception events to enhance the exhibit experience. If you are interested in performing at one of the monthly Art Receptions, please fill out the same application as noted above with applicable information and submit an audio file. Applications will be reviewed at the next Arts Council Meeting following receipt of the application.

## Arts COUNCIL Prairie Village



### MAY

**Wayne Wilkes** is an instructor in the Kansas City Art Institute Continuing and Professional Studies Program. He finds that art is a vehicle for creative problem-solving and is a way to communicate that transcends other communication barriers. Come see his series of work in oil and acrylic. A reception will be held on Friday, May 9, 2014, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

### JUNE

Join us for a mixed media exhibit featuring **Helen Benson**. A reception will be held on Friday, June 13, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar now to view these upcoming exhibits at the R.G. Endres Gallery and attend opening receptions honoring these talented artists. Gallery hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Gallery is located in City Hall at 7700 Mission Rd.

# PV HAPPENINGS

## Pool Opens May 24th

Join us for opening day at the Prairie Village Pool Complex on May 25. Regular hours are 11:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Purchase your pool membership and register for the city's aquatic and tennis programs now! To register online or to learn more about the city's recreation programs visit [www.pvkansas.com/parksandrecreation](http://www.pvkansas.com/parksandrecreation). Pool memberships and registrations can also be processed at the City Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at 7700 Mission Rd.



## Prairie Village Art Show

The Prairie Village Art Show is back again with over 100 artists from May 30 - June 1. Children's activities, food, drinks and great art will be available the entire weekend.

**Schedule:**

- Friday May 30** 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Michael Beers Band 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Saturday May 31** 10:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Blue Orleans 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday June 1** 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



## 2015 Budget Hearing

A public hearing will be held on Monday, August 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to hear comments and suggestions about the City's 2015 budget. A copy of the proposed budget will be available online and at the City Clerk's office by August 4. You can also weigh in on key budget issues by taking our Budget Simulator at [www.pvkansas.com/budgetsimulator](http://www.pvkansas.com/budgetsimulator). Please refer to the City's website at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com) for other key budget dates.

## Election Results

The spring general election took place on Tuesday, April 1. Council members Steve Noll (Ward 2) and Laura Wassmer (Ward 4) ran unopposed and were re-elected. New council members were elected in Ward 1 – Jori Nelson; Ward 3 – Eric Mikkelsen; Ward 5 – Dan Runion; and Ward 6 – Terrence Gallagher. The council members were sworn in at the City Council meeting on April 7.

## Prairie Village Shops Update

Improvements at the Prairie Village Shopping Center will continue throughout 2014. Construction of the new retail building is complete, including the parking lot and landscaping. Starbucks tenant finish contractor has been making excellent progress and we are told they should be fully operational in their new location on or shortly after the first of May (barring the unforeseen). As soon as Starbucks relocates to the new retail building, Einstein Bros. Bagels will take possession of the former Starbucks and Dolce premises with an anticipated opening in August 2014. The Mission Lane Improvements and culvert repairs began in late April. The improvements are scheduled to be completed using "sequencing" rather than being performed in three distinct phases. The advantages are twofold; first it will allow Mission Lane to remain open throughout the majority of the construction and second it will allow the entire project to be completed a couple of months ahead of the timeframe previously envisioned. The work is expected to wrap up in early to mid-August as opposed to the October timeframe; however, weather/unforeseen conditions may play a factor.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
May 3rd	Recycling Extravaganza	8:00 am	95th & Metcalf	June 2nd	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers
May 5th	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers	June 16th	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers
May 19th	Council Meeting	7:30 pm	Council Chambers	July 4th	VillageFest	7:30 am	Municipal Campus
May 24th	Pool Opens	11:00 am	Pool Complex				

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Distracted Driving

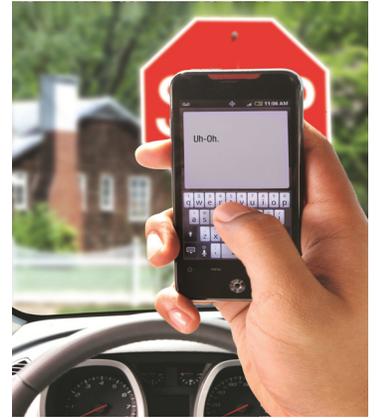
What is distracted driving? Drivers can be distracted by anything that takes their attention away from the main task of driving. All distractions increase the danger to drivers, passengers, and pedestrians.

Distractions can include:

- Writing, reading, or sending texts or emails
- Reading, including maps
- Inputting data for a GPS unit
- Eating and drinking
- Applying makeup or shaving
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

Texting is the most alarming distraction because it involves:

- Manual distraction (taking hands off the steering wheel)
- Visual distraction (taking eyes off the roadway)
- Cognitive distraction (taking the mind off the task of driving)



For example, sending or reading a text or email takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. At 55 mph this is equal to driving the length of a football field without looking at the road. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates texting drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash. Nationwide, over 400,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver in 2012 (NHTSA). Locally, in Prairie Village the majority of the 422 accidents that occurred in 2012 were caused by drivers simply not paying attention to other vehicles on the roads.

What is the law in Kansas?

- It is unlawful to manually type, send, or read a written communication while operating a motor vehicle, even while stopped at a red light or stop sign
- A "written communication" includes text messages, instant messages, and emails
- Exemptions allow for situations such as reporting illegal activity to law enforcement



What can you do?

- While driving, put your phone where you can't reach it (the trunk, a backseat). No phone- no texting.
- Download an app for smart phones that prevents texting when the phone detects the motion of a moving vehicle
- Turn notifications off so you won't be tempted to respond to messages while driving
- Let your passenger handle the communications

Other resources can be found at:

- [www.distraction.gov](http://www.distraction.gov)
- [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)
- [www.stoptextsstopwrecks.org](http://www.stoptextsstopwrecks.org)
- [www.ktsro.org](http://www.ktsro.org)

## Scam Alert – Residential Alarm Customers

The basic scam is simply a bogus or unnecessary upgrade. Several nearby cities have experienced out-of-state companies contacting home owners and trying to convince them new and improved monitoring equipment is a necessity. The salesperson will often ask to come inside the home because they need to verify the control panel is an “older” model. Next, they often claim they have “cellular” lines to monitor the alarm and stay active during a power outage. The new company then attempts to get unsuspecting homeowners to agree to a new contract for this service. The end result is the customer is now committed to two separate alarm contracts. If you are solicited by a company asking to come inside your house and perform these services, tell them “no thanks” and call the Police Department. As a reminder, businesses conducting door-to-door solicitation in Prairie Village must have a city permit which includes photo identification.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Help Keep Our Village Beautiful!

We're working to keep our community beautiful in 2014 by encouraging good property maintenance practices citywide. Our Code Enforcement Team will be in your neighborhood in the coming weeks looking for common code violations. Below are a few tips to help you keep our village beautiful. For more information, contact Marcia Gradinger at 913-385-4605.

### Yard Upkeep

- Weeds and grass trimmed to less than 8" high
- Remove dead plants, leaves and limb debris
- Remove trash and worthless items accumulating outside

### Storage

- Yard tools and equipment, lumber, and other items must be inside or screened in back yard
- No inoperable or unlicensed vehicles outside
- No recreational vehicles stored in front yard

### Exterior Home Maintenance

- All exterior surfaces (such as walls, fences, etc.) free of damage, decaying paint, rust, etc.
- All sidewalks, walkways, and driveways should be in good repair
- Roof and flashing should be sound and tight
- No broken windows, doors, or gutters

### Trash Storage

Trash cans must be stored behind the front building line and screened from view from the street at all times, except the evening before the day of their scheduled trash collection. Here is an example of how one Prairie Village homeowner screens their trash cans.



### Assistance for Homeowners

Springtime programs, such as the annual exterior grant and large item trash pickup, have already passed. However, resources are still available to help homeowners meet the city's appearance and maintenance requirements. Johnson County Housing Services administers two programs for low-income homeowners, the HOME Program and the Minor Home Rehabilitation Program. Contact Johnson County Housing Services to see if you qualify and apply for the program at 913-715-6616. City code enforcement staff can also refer qualified homeowners to A Brush with Kindness, a Heartland Habitat for Humanity program that matches community volunteers with homeowners who need help with exterior upkeep.

## Meet the Prairie Village Code Enforcement Team

### Marcia Gradinger

Marcia, a Prairie Village resident, has served as the city's Code Enforcement Official for over 13 years. She loves Prairie Village's friendly community and taking walks on its tree-lined streets. She hopes to continue to help Prairie Village homeowners. Marcia can be reached at [mgradinger@pvkansas.com](mailto:mgradinger@pvkansas.com) or 913-385-4605.

### Greg Hudson

A 25 year veteran of the Prairie Village Police Department, Greg joined Codes Administration this March as a seasonal Code Enforcement Official. Greg retired at the rank of sergeant in 2010 but is glad to return and continue to serve the citizens of Prairie Village. Contact Greg at [ghudson@pvkansas.com](mailto:ghudson@pvkansas.com) or 913-385-4679.

# COMMUNITY CORNER

## What's Bugging My Roses?

Are you wondering what those spots all over your rose leaves might be? Do you think some critter is making a meal out of your roses? Or do your rose buds seem to have “failure to thrive syndrome”?



Then join us for the May meeting of the Johnson County Rose Society to be held on Thursday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m., at the Prairie Village Community Center, 7720 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. ARS Consulting Rosarian and Master Gardener Laura Dickinson will present a program about diseases and pests which are common to roses. We'll get help learning preventative measures for common problems, identifying ailments and pests, and how to treat them when they do occur. Feel free to bring samples of any problems you might be having!

All JCERS meetings are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. For more information about the meetings, programs, and other activities of the JCERS, or for membership details, please visit their website at <http://www.rosesocietyjoco.org>. You can also visit them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/JoCoRoses](http://www.facebook.com/JoCoRoses).

## Fourth Friday Concerts

Live music and free food will be center stage at the tenth annual Fourth Friday Concerts in the Park series sponsored by Hillcrest Covenant Church. Concerts are from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Franklin Park on the fourth Fridays in May, June, July and August. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and join the fun.



### Concert Schedule:

- May 23:** Moon City Big Band (big band jazz, standards and originals)
- June 27:** Riptide ('60s and '70s classic rock)
- July 25:** KC Raindogs (acoustic blues)
- August 22:** Hard at Play (classic rock with horns)

## Financial Security hires new Financial Analyst

Nick Applegate has joined the Prairie Village firm of Financial Security Advisors as a Financial Analyst. Nick is a graduate of Graceland University, in Lamonia, Iowa, with degrees in accounting and Business Administration. He was selected for internships with both the Kansas City Chiefs and the Missouri Mavericks. Since college, Nick previously worked for a national copier company, providing sales and customer service to area businesses. Nick stays active in his community serving as the Youth Group leader for his church.



## Sign-up for Hatha Yoga

Johnson County Park and Recreation offers Hatha (Gentle) Yoga at the Prairie Village Community Center on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. Hatha (Gentle) Yoga strengthens your body, calms your mind and improves your flexibility and balance. All fitness levels can benefit from this class. Participants are encouraged to bring yoga mats. Sessions run May 2 – June 6 and June 13 – July 18. The first session costs \$43 for residents and \$47 for non-residents. The second session costs \$36 for residents and \$40 for non-residents. Call (913) 826-3160 for more information.



**Prairie Village Municipal Office**  
**7700 Mission Road**  
**Prairie Village, KS 66208**

Presorted Standard  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 549  
Shawnee Mission, KS

### **Reader Feedback**

Please send your comments to:

Prairie Village Voice  
7700 Mission Rd  
Prairie Village, KS 66208  
info@pvkansas.com  
913-385-4662

### **Prairie Village e-News**

Receive Prairie Village e-News in your inbox. Sign-up at [www.pvkansas.com/enews](http://www.pvkansas.com/enews) and tailor your preferences to fit your interests.



Follow us on Twitter



Like us on Facebook

## **VILLAGE GREEN**

### **City of Prairie Village's Cost-Share Reimbursement Program**

The City of Prairie Village has received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from Johnson County for the Stormwater Treatment Facilities (STF) cost-share program. This program is an innovative approach to controlling stormwater thus improving water quality and aiding in reducing erosion. The program encourages individual homeowners and businesses to incorporate STFs on their property and is intended to help cover the cost of material and/or contractor labor to install rain gardens, add rain barrels, or add pervious pavement. The program runs from April 1 - October 31, 2014. A homeowner or business is allowed to apply for one STF in a calendar year. For more information please contact Debbie Templeton at 913-385-4646 or [dtempleton@pvkansas.com](mailto:dtempleton@pvkansas.com). You can also read more about the program, as well as download application forms, on the City's website at [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com).

### **CITY CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **CITY HALL & MUNICIPAL COURT**

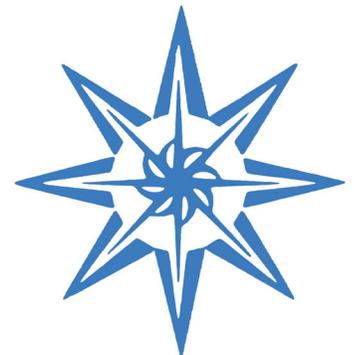
7700 Mission Rd  
Quinn Bennion, City Administrator  
Kate Gunja, Assistant City Administrator  
Joyce Hagen Mundy, City Clerk  
Lisa Santa Maria, Finance Director

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

7710 Mission Rd  
Wes Jordan, Chief of Police

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

3535 Somerset Dr  
Keith Bredehoeft, Public Works Director



**913-381-6464 • [info@pvkansas.com](mailto:info@pvkansas.com) • [www.pvkansas.com](http://www.pvkansas.com)**

**VISIT US AT [WWW.PVKANSAS.COM](http://WWW.PVKANSAS.COM)**